

MINUTES

General Assembly of Members at the 8th Annual Meeting of the European Society for Dermatological Research

Amsterdam, April 25, 1978

MALCOLM W. GREAVES, SECRETARY

Present

61 active and senior members.

Presidential address

In his opening comments the President, E. Christophers, reported that the previous year has seen continuing development and expansion of the Society's activities. The clinically oriented symposium on skin carcinogenesis organized by M. Prunieras in Paris, January 13 and 14, 1978, was a great success. The membership of the ESDR is steadily growing and has now reached 267. The scientific programme of the ESDR has been expanded so as to include a larger number of poster exhibits and an additional evening session has been arranged. However, the burden imposed on the Programme Committee by the mounting number of abstracts submitted for the Annual Scientific Meeting and expanding range of topics covered by the abstracts had reached an unacceptable level. This was known to be a source of concern to both the Board and the general membership. Consequently the Board has decided in the future to share the responsibility for evaluation of abstracts equally among all Board members.

Commenting on the formation of the European Society for Comparative Skin Biology (ESCSB), E. Christophers expressed the view of the Board that the correct policy must be to move toward close collaboration between the 2 Societies for their mutual benefit. The organizers of the ESCSB have themselves expressed the need for cooperation.

Rosanne Wrench, speaking on behalf of the President of the ESCSB, reaffirmed the intentions of the officers of this Society to work closely with their ESDR counterparts. She also drew the attention of the ESDR members to the fact that of approximately 100 founding members of the ESCSB about 55 had expressed mammalian vertebrate dermatology as their main interest so that there was clearly a significant overlap of interests between the 2 Societies.

In the ensuing general discussion some members expressed the view that immediate more active steps should be taken to initiate collaborative activities but the general consensus was that the ESCSB would require time to establish the views of its membership before steps could be taken to construct formal links. However, the possibility of more informal links, including an exchange of advance publicity on scientific meetings between the 2 memberships and exchange of workshop leaders between the 2 Societies ought to be explored. Rosanne Wrench undertook to convey these views to the ESCSB president.

Finally, the President expressed the thanks of the Society to Vick International, Syntex Corporation, Stiefel Laboratories and Max Ritter for their generous sponsorship of the 1978 Annual Scientific Meeting.

Minutes

The Minutes of the 1977 General Assembly were approved without dissent.

Report of the Secretary

The Secretary, M. Greaves, reported that recent legislation enacted by the Dutch Government had obliged the ESDR to revise its Articles of Association in order to comply with Dutch law. Legal advice had been obtained and new Articles drawn up. These had been considered and deemed acceptable by the Board. However, there were certain significant differences between the existing rules of the ESDR and the proposed Articles of Association which the general membership should be aware of. These were read out by the Secretary. The proposed Articles of Association were then adopted by the ESDR membership by a unanimous vote. Arising out of the new Articles the Assembly elected 2 of its number, R. Cormane and T. van Joost, to audit the ESDR accounts annually.

Report of the Treasurer

The Treasurer, T. van Joost, reported that the current assets of the

this had been a problem. The Editor would also continue to discourage referees from making trivial criticisms of manuscripts submitted for publication.

Report of the Programme Committee

Society amounted to 26,007.39 NG (income during previous year : 65,056.73 NG; expenditure : 39,049.34 NG).

Report of the Publication Committee

K. Wolff reported on the current status of the JID and its relationship with the ESDR and on a letter recently received from the Editor, Ruth Freinkel. He drew attention to the increasing numbers of manuscripts received by the *Journal*, and the satisfactory quality of manuscripts submitted. Attempts to bring ESDR members more fully into the reviewing process were bearing fruit. However, the importance of minimizing the time taken by European reviewers was emphasized, as

R. Marks reported that 114 abstracts had been received for the 1978 Annual Scientific Meeting, of which 60 were accepted. Suggestions from the membership for improving future programmes included substitution of teaching sessions for some of the workshops and the possibility of altering the arrangements for discussion of the poster demonstrations. The President agreed that the Board would consider these possibilities.

Report of the Education Committee

R. Marks reported that the next clinically oriented symposium would be entitled "Vasculitis" and would be organized by K. Wolff at Innsbruck, February 15-17, 1979. In addition the ESDR was sponsoring the following meetings: European Symposium on Psoriasis, organized by C. Scarpa, Trieste, October 20 and 21, 1978; Mammalian Pigmentation, organized by J. Thivolet, J. P. Ortonne and C. Voulot, Lyons, November 23 and 24, 1978; Epidermis in Disease, organized by R. Marks and E. Christophers, Cardiff, April 18-20, 1979; Bioengineering in the Skin, organized by R. Marks, Cardiff, July 1979.

Appointment of New Members

32 applications for membership were presented to, and approved unanimously by, the Assembly.

Appointment of Members of the Board

The President reported that in accordance with item 6 of section 7 of the statutes of the Society the following were retiring from the Board: E. Christophers, T. van Joost, R. Caputo, K. Wolff. The following had been nominated by the Board to fill these vacancies: G. Plewig, H. Honigsmann, W. van Vloten, R. Caputo (re-election). These were elected by the Assembly without dissent.

Place and Date of the Next Meeting

The next Annual Meeting will take place in Amsterdam, June 10-15, 1979. This will be the joint meeting held in conjunction with the Society of Investigative Dermatology.

Officers of the Board

The President stated that the Board had appointed the following officers for the period 1978-1979:

President: R. Marks
Secretary: M. Greaves
Treasurer: W. van Vloten

There being no other business the meeting was closed.

European Society for Dermatological Research Poster Award

The ESDR Poster Award for the best poster presentation at the annual ESDR meeting has been kindly offered by Max Ritter, Pharmaceutical Specialities, Zurich/CH. The winners for 1978 are P. Fritsch, F. Gschnait, G. Kaaserer, W. Brenner, H. Kraus, H. Honigsmann and K. Wolff, Departments of Dermatology, University of Innsbruck and University of Vienna, for the poster "Animal model for PUVA: partial suppression of proliferative stimulus induced by stripping."